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TERRIBLE TEDDY BREAKS LOOSE.

Deserts Cave He has Occupied so Long and Jumps in Front Ranks of Progressives.--Taft Stands Pat.

Queer things are happening in these days. And if anything that Roosevelt does can be considered queer, then his recent declaration in favor of the initiative, referendum, recall and votes for women is queer. Why didn't he think of all this sooner? A Republican said to me, "Why, Roosevelt is getting to be a regular Socialist."

It happened this way: They who rule always have their ears to the ground listening to what the great mass of people are doing and saying. There are two very distinct sections of both of the old parties—known as the conservatives and the progressives. The conservatives want to do things just like paw did. They refuse to recognize that the conditions now are different from a hundred years ago. The progressives want to move on and follow within hailing distance of the Socialists—but don't want to "go too far." In other words, they are willing to do almost anything for the people—except get off their backs.

The conservatives, or stand-patters, are in control at Washington. Last fall Taft went out on his swing around the circle. He represents stand-patism. But his reception everywhere was so chilly that some of his backers feared he could not "cut the mustard," and decided that a little progressive dope had to be mixed in.

Then we began to hear of Col. Roosevelt. Up to this time Col. Crazy Horse, as Charles Edward Russell calls him, was a stand-patter from 'way back. He made Taft president to carry out "my policies"—and Taft did.

Suddenly we are told that Taft and Roosevelt are bitter enemies. Roosevelt disowned his political offspring. LaFollette was sent out to feel the pulse from a progressive stand-point. Evidently LaFollette reported the people awake. Then the press announced his temporary retirement on account of ill health.

Then comes Crazy Horse and undertakes to put the Socialists in the shade with his progressive ideas. Teddy wants "the people" to rule. He wants these rotten judges recalled who don't do right. Think of that! And yet, when he was president, he held up the admission of Oklahoma for some time because of its progressive constitution.

Since the people are becoming fully awake to the fact that the superior courts are made up of trust lawyers installed by the interests that rob the people, the interests are becoming alarmed. In fact the people are fast driving the interests behind their last breast-works—their courts. The so-called representatives of the people in the state legislatures and in congress can no longer sell out and then receive an ovation on their return home. But the federal judges are not responsible to the people, and are appointed by the president on the recommendation of Big Business. And it is behind these that Big Business is now entrenched. And when the people succeed in breaking thru this barricade they will be free—and not until then.

The extent to which the plutes are alarmed is shown by the utterances of their president. He doesn't believe that the people are fitted for self-government and thinks that a few wise men like he and the federal judges should attend to that job. In a recent speech before the New York State Bar Association the president said:

"There are those who do not believe that all the people are fitted for popular government. The fact is, we know they are not. Some of us don't dare say so, but I do. We are called upon now, we of the bar, to say whether we are going to protect the institution of the judiciary and continue it independent of the majority or of all the people."

There you have it—hot off the bat. Our president KNOWS that we are not capable of self-government—and, judging from the past I guess he is right about it. If we were, such men as Taft and Roosevelt would be out somewhere working on the section. But the people are trying, by education, to fit themselves for self-government, and it is this that the Tafts, Roosevelts and so on are trying to head off. Judging

from his utterances, I presume the president would favor trying "benevolent assimilation," as in the Philippines, to "protect the institution of the judiciary and continue it independent of the majority, or of all the people."

But this New York speech gave Col. Crazy Horse his opportunity. He has been awfully meek of late—waiting for something to turn up. Roosevelt is not a leader—but a follower. He smells the air, finds out what is popular—then pushes everybody aside and gets in front. Perhaps it would be better to say that the subsidized press does this for him. Before the Ohio Constitutional convention last week Mr. Roosevelt replied to the presidents New York speech thusly:

"Many eminent lawyers believe, and sometimes assert, that the American people are not fitted for popular government, and that it is necessary to keep the judiciary independent of the majority of the people; that there must be no appeal to the people from the decisions of the court in any case, and that therefore the judges are to be established as sovereign rulers over the people. I take absolute issue with all those who hold such a position. I regard it as a complete negation of our whole system of government; and if it became the dominant position in this country, it would mean the absolute upsetting of both the rights and the rule of the people."

There, by gum! Now, where is Granny Bryan? At a single leap Roosevelt jumps a half century ahead of the "Peerless Leader." In a recent issue of the Commonwealth suggested that it would be well to DISCUSS the initiative and referendum at the Baltimore convention, but did not recommend putting it in the platform. And here comes Roosevelt and swallows the whole dose—including the recall of judges! Here is some more of that speech:

"I believe in providing for direct nomination by the people, including therein direct presidential primaries for the election of delegates to the national nominating convention. I believe in the election of United States Senators by direct vote."

"I believe in the initiative and referendum, which should be used not to destroy representative government, but to correct it whenever it becomes misrepresentative. I believe that the initiative and referendum should be used, not as substitutes for representative government, but as methods of making such government really representative. Action by the initiative or referendum ought not to be the normal way of legislation."

"I do not believe in adopting the recall save as a last resort, when it has become clearly evident that no course will achieve the desired result. But either the recall will have to be adopted or else it will have to be made made much easier than it is now to get rid of a bad judge, but a judge who, however virtuous, has grown so out of touch with social needs and facts that he is unfit longer to render good service on the bench. It is no use to say that impeachment meets the difficulty. In actual practice we have found that impeachment does not work, that unfit judges stay on the bench in spite of it."

Isn't that going some? Socialists were jailed for talking like that in some communities two years ago. "The courts of justice are the bulwark of our liberties," said the Democratic platform of 1908, and the Republican platform said the same thing—only in different language.

Judging from his speech there are strong indications that Teddy has been reading up on Socialism. You remember what a trust buster he was while president. He got out his big stick and swiped them as he came to them. But he has learned something—strange to say. Discussing the efforts to regulate the trusts and restore competition he says: "It is both futile and mischievous to endeavor to correct the evils of big business by an attempt to restore business conditions as they were in the middle of the last century, before railroads and telegraphs had rendered larger business organizations both inevitable and desirable. The efforts to restore such conditions, and to trust for justice solely to such proposed restoration is as foolish as if we should attempt to arm our troops with flintlocks instead of with modern weapons of precision. Flintlock legislation, of the kind that seeks to prohibit all combinations, good or bad, is bound to fail."

Say, if he keeps on, I'll have to call him Comrade Teddy. "Flintlock legislation." That is good. We are still legislating to meet conditions of the flintlock age. But where does old Granny Bryan come in. He can't say Teddy stole it from the Democratic platform.

Of all the political mountebanks Bryan takes the cake. He has been everywhere on every proposition and has never stood anywhere long enough for anybody to locate him. In 1896 it was free silver; in 1890 it was anti-imperialism; in 1894 it was gold standard; in 1908 it was guaranteed bank deposits and "shall the people rule?" What will it be in 1912?

Bryan is the only man in national politics who has grown rich playing a losing game. He is the decoy duck of the plutes to lead the western farmers to the slaughter pen. But he has about lost his grip. In his own state he has accomplished nothing in the way of progressive legislation—nor has he anywhere else. It's all hot air.

Oh, yes, I was about to forget. Over in the state of Oregon they have the initiative referendum and recall, or, more properly speaking, direct legislation. The people initiated a law to tax certain corporations—express, telegraph, etc.—and adopted it by referendum.

Of course the corporations, as usual appeal to mamma. They wanted the federal court to say that the people of Oregon had no constitutional right to do such naughty things to corporations. Mamma said she'd consider the matter. This was before the election last fall, and I would have bet my ears that mamma would give the corporations what they wanted.

But at the election all over the country the Socialists shook the nation from center to circumference. Even in St. Louis, where the Socialists are divided into two warring factions, they took second place—leading the Democrats by about 2,000 votes.

What of it? Well, about the time Teddy was handing out his dose the United States supreme court decided that it had no right to interfere in the Oregon matter.

And yet some folks vote the old party tickets because they don't want to lose their vote. A Socialist vote is never lost. It is the only ticket that a working man can vote that is sure to count.

WHO IS TO BE PITIED?

Night riders are busy in Salem township, issuing warnings to renters to not pay over six dollars per acre rent this year. It is said these vicious fellows will soon follow this up with a warning to landlords to not charge more. This ignorant, vicious class of citizens is to be pitied to some extent, for they feel that something is radically wrong somewhere in this trust-ridden, high tariff Republican administration and rashly jump on the landlord.—Campbell Citizen.

I don't know who is to be pitied most—the ignorant night-riders who vote for it, or the ignorant editor who puts out such drivel as the above to "enlighten" them. Did the Republicans put a "high tariff" on land?

Campbell is a Democratic city, in a Democratic county of a Democratic state, where the Dunklin Democrat says the people vote the ticket and read the platform afterward. Yet, if I went there to peddle shoe-strings I'd have to first pay the tariff imposed by the city or be arrested. They call it a license, or tax, but it is there to protect the little business men just the same as the national tariff, license or tax protects Big Business—and you howl against one and defend the other. Yet the principle involved is exactly the same.

Rent is in itself a tariff, or tax, that must be paid by the tenant to the landlord, and the landlords of Missouri are of the good, old Democratic kind. The national government had nothing to do with their enactment. But your landlords did.

The average old party editor reminds me of a blind leader of the blind. And that is why his followers can't find their way out of the ditch.

BE CAREFUL, BROTHER.

Copies were received in Sikeston and this county of a newly established publication at Hamburg, Ark., at the editorial head of which is to be found the name of that distinguished citizen, Guy E. Cooksey. Patriot and savior of his country, like Phil Haffner and Charles Walker, he has been watched in his career by his Sikeston friends, who will regret to hear that he is no longer operating an anarchistic journal. Cooksey announces that it will be independent.—Sikeston Standard.

People who live in glass houses ought not to fling bricks around too carelessly. Like yourself, Mr. Cooksey is now running an "independent" paper—whatever that may mean. And he is as careful about declaring his Socialism in Ashley county, Ark., as you are about declaring your Republicanism in Scott county, Missouri. Neither of you can afford to.

A RELIC OF BARBARISM.

Poll taxes have been handed down to us from the feudal ages when the common people were classed as property to be taxed like sheep or cattle, by the head. Originally it was a perfectly just tax, because it was levied on the feudal lord and paid by him according to the number of serfs he was exploiting. As he was getting the lion's share of benefit from the labor of the people under him, there was every reason why he should contribute to the support of the Government in proportion to the number of people he controlled and the tax by the head was the best way to determine that. It was evident that a duke with a thousand serfs should pay ten times as much as a baron with only a hundred.

The poll tax, therefore, was simply the application of just principles of taxation to the conditions of the feudal ages. The feudal lord enjoyed a privilege conferred on him by law and he paid to the public treasury, the amount of that privilege was thought to be worth.

If the slave owners before our Civil War had been taxed so much per head for each slave, it would have been an exactly similar tax. But, in the course of time, the lords managed to shift the tax on to the common people, so that each man had to pay his own head tax.

Then the original good reason for the tax ceased to exist and it became a most unjust and senseless burden. The lord was paying for a legal privilege. The poor man who pays his poll tax does not enjoy any legal privilege and there is no reason why he should pay a tax for the simple fact that he is living.

For these reasons nearly all the civilized nations of the earth have abolished poll tax as a relic of the dark ages.

The only prominent nations that still levy poll taxes are Russia, Turkey, Persia, China and twenty states of our UNITED STATES. This is pretty bad company or us to be in and comment is unnecessary.

Ninety-one counties in Missouri still levy this tax. Is it any wonder that the state has lost ground?

If we take out the growth which has taken place in the large cities, the State of Missouri, outside of these, has not as many people as it had twenty years ago.

A large part of this result can be attributed to its barbarous system of taxation. Fortunately the poor of Missouri will have a chance to vote on this question at the next November election in 1912. An amendment to the constitution of the state has been submitted to them by the means of the initiative, which will abolish poll taxes and forever prohibit them in the state.

There is no doubt that the enlightened people of Missouri will wipe this disgrace from their constitution and place their state on an equality with the other civilized communities of the world.

DON'TS FOR RENTERS.

DON'T remove the dead dog in your front yard, else the landlord will raise the rent on account of the improved sanitary condition.

DON'T let your wife put a flower pot in the window. The added beauty may be the cause of your paying one-half instead of one-third share rent the coming year.

DON'T make your landlord feel bad by demanding more than a two-room shack for yourself, wife and nine children. Remember the "Son of man" did not even have a hole to crawl into and you have one, with rat holes in the floor, knotholes in the walls and woodpecker holes in the roof thrown in. Besides this, you have holes in your pants, holes in your hat and holes in your shoes. Be satisfied, brother, for you have the best start on earth to become holy all over.

DON'T vote the Socialist ticket, but vote as landlords and bankers tell you. They know what's best for them and you don't. Your interest and their interest are alike even as the interest of tick and dog, bass and frog, fleas and hog are alike.—Oscar Ameringer in National R.P.Saw.

"Scott county for Socialism in 1912." Don't forget it.

THE CAVE DWELLERS.

"Scott county has long been noted for having a class of citizens within her borders that are always ready to take up with every fad, ally themselves with any party, the tendency of which was calculated to create strife; to breed discord among the people."

The above gem is from the pen of an Oran Cave Dweller who scribbles for "the party" press. If he had his way he would still be going to mill with a rock in one end of the bag to balance it.

Uncle Jim thinks it is all wrong for the people to complain. He thinks they ought to starve in peace—meekly, uncomplainingly. That is the capitalist idea of being "good." Then they climb up the golden stairs, twang on the golden harps and jig around on the golden streets. They that are "good" and contented are PROMISED all kinds of gold—after they are dead!

But, unfortunately, it is otherwise, and has been otherwise, at times, ever since the overthrow of that divine institution—the Divine Right of Kings. And the idea that some people are born to rule gets scant consideration in this, the 20th century.

These breeders of strife and discord were in evidence in Washington day. One of those undesirable citizens went so far as to say in the midst of a group of rebels who were considering the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, "Give me Liberty or Give me Death!" Imagine how such an utterance from a breeder of strife and discord shocked the finer feelings of the "best people" of that day! But the "best people" got licked—and Patrick Henry got Liberty.

Things went on very well until we had built up our own "better class." Then those same breeders of strife and discord re-appeared with Honest Abe Lincoln in the lead. And after they had peacefully, thru the ballot, secured control of the government the "best people" refused to submit. They favored law and order so long as they had the say of what should constitute law and order. But when this power was taken from them the slave aristocracy became outlaws and rebelled again the government. And, strange to say our Oran patriot and defender of law and order today was then a breeder of strife and discord—and a REBEL!

But then, as now, he was on the side of oppression—and got licked. And he is a Democrat "cause paw wuz."

IN GERMANY.

Lest we forget, let us again examine the growth of the Socialist vote in Germany during the past forty years—in a country where, until recently, it was exile or imprisonment to be known as a Socialist:

Year.	Soc. Vote.	Elected.
1871	123,971	2
1874	341,952	9
1877	493,298	12
1878	437,153	12
1881	311,981	12
1884	549,990	24
1887	733,128	11
1890	1,427,259	35
1893	1,736,738	44
1898	2,107,070	56
1903	3,019,881	81
1907	3,251,075	43
1912	4,250,000	110

It will be noticed that in 1878 the number of Socialists elected was only nine, while the year before there had been twelve elected. This was due to the arbitrary dissolution of the Reichstag by Prince Bismarck who was then Chancellor of the empire and who used every brutality and outrageous action imaginable to suppress the Socialist movement. The Reichstag was dissolved for the purpose of getting a reactionary majority who would pass the proposed Ten-Year-Anti-Socialist laws in 1878.

In 1881 the Socialist vote fell back by over 100,000. This was under the first period of Bismarck's Anti-Socialist law rule when no political organization of the Socialist Party was allowed in Germany. Every Socialist Club and Party branch was dissolved. The Socialist treasuries were confiscated by the government, and also the treasuries of the Trade Unions. The latter were also suppressed. Whatever propaganda work the Socialists did had to be done secretly. Their official organ "Der Sozialdemokrat" had to be published in Switzerland and every copy of the paper had to be smuggled into Germany as merchandise, such as dry-goods, groceries etc. When the election of 1881 came on they were practically without organization, thousands of their leading members had been driven out of the country or thrown into prison. All the Socialist papers were suppressed and to distribute a Socialist circular meant a term in jail or exile to any comrade who was caught in the act. Yet they polled 311,981 votes in 1881!

Under present conditions the land lord is only a tenant of the state. He is the "middle man" between the state and the tiller of the soil, and is entirely useless—a parasite. But, unless you have studied

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI.

Happenings in Neighboring Counties that May be of Interest to You.

Bloomfield had a \$200,000 fire last week in which 15 business houses were destroyed. The fire originated in the Bloomfield Mercantile Co.'s store and burned fiercely for more than two hours. The Vindicator says: "By midnight the whole country around the city was lighted by the flames of the burning town until it was almost as light as day. The light from the fire was seen as far away as Dierke on the south and an equal distance in other directions. The fact that many of the stores and their immediately adjoining ware rooms contained gasoline, coal oil, dynamite and other explosives, which added terror to the scene by the frequent explosions tended to make the spectacle the most luridly dramatic of anything ever witnessed in the county."

About all the news to be found in the local papers is the report of crimes. After the Campbell Citizen relates the burglary of a general store and a hardware store there last week it goes on: "A store and a saloon were burglarized at Hayti, Friday night. The thieves gained entrance by cutting the panels from the back doors. Maybe the same fellows came on up to Campbell and pulled off the robbery at Rice & Pettit Hardware Store Sunday night."

Wonder if it ever occurs to the editor of the Pemberton Argus that there is a cause. He says: "Twelve thousand insane persons are being supported by the state at a cost of about \$300,000. This includes only the more violent cases, as the feeble-minded cases would total probably 35,000 in the state. There does not seem to be any DECREASE. On the contrary, the ratio of insanity is increasing MORE RAPIDLY THAN THAT OF POPULATION."

Bloomfield Vindicator.—Henry Gerard of Dexter, who owns considerable land in this county was tried in the probate court in this city on an inquisition of insanity. The jury found him of unsound mind and adjudged him incapable of attending to his affairs. The proceeding was had upon the application of his brother. A guardian will be appointed. He was placed in the Farmington asylum by his brother.

Poplar Bluff Citizen.—Company D of the National Guards of Missouri, and in fact the national guards of all the states are in readiness for a call to the Mexican border. The developments at the border during recent weeks has caused national interference in the Mexican revolution by Uncle Sam to be expected. "It is stated that Company D of this city could be ready to move in ten minutes after receiving a call."

The Democratic delegates who were selected to go to Joplin from Cape county did not go. Evidently the convention made the mistake of selecting delegates who had other business.

CAN'T GO THE WHOLE HOG I am told that some of the "Handy Andy's" of the landlords in the south part of the county are telling the tenants that they can't quite "go" Socialism, but would favor a law limiting the ownership of land to 160 acres. While the Handy Andy's may not know it, yet this is the sop that is being put out to the small land owner that is fast disappearing. Under existing conditions the tenant farmer has little hope of ever owning 160 acres hence this dope does not interest him.

Many years ago Senator Vest caused congress to pass a law permitting the sale of government land and limiting the amount that anyone could buy to 320 acres. This was heralded as a great law in favor of the man who wanted a home. Nobody said anything about the lumber trust being behind the law.

Prior to that time it was necessary to homestead the land. But the new law that this great apostle of Democracy pulled off put a price on the land—and the land speculators had the price. And although the law limited the purchase of an individual to 320 acres, there is always a way around capitalist law where the gap is purposely left down, and they who were behind this law had all the land worth having "spotted" and bought it at \$1.25 an acre—although the timber was worth ten times the price paid.

Socialism will let anyone own 160 acres of land who wants to use it. But it will not let you own 160 acres of land, or any other amount, for the purpose of exploitation. Under Socialism the land will be FOR THOSE WHO USE IT, and the land laws will be framed by the users of land and not by those who live from letting others use it.

Under Socialism there will be neither landlord nor tenant in the sense that we now have them. The primary title to all land is now in the state—the people. Under present conditions the land lord is only a tenant of the state. He is the "middle man" between the state and the tiller of the soil, and is entirely useless—a parasite. But, unless you have studied

Cape Republic.—Hy. Koechig, a farmer living out on the Jackson road, brought to the Republican office Saturday a petition he is circulating among farmers. A protective association is to be formed next Saturday at the court house in Jackson for the purpose of protecting farmers from careless automobile drivers. When a farmer loses stock or is personally injured by an auto driver the association will employ a lawyer to fight the case to the end, so that the farmer may get justice. Mr. Koechig says the "Cape" in cases of this kind the auto driver takes the case to the nearest courts and the farmer is not able to stand the big expense.

Where work people are ignorant of the power they could have by united action, the ballot box, they sometimes resort to intimidation and violence. The Malden Merit says: "Riders in Salem township are riding up some excitement. A warning from renting large tracts of land and then sub-renting at an exorbitant price per acre. Also land owners have been promised to lower the price of land."

Dexter Messenger.—A residing near Pilot Knob, county, was aroused one night recently about midnight by a man in the room, who was trying to get into another bed. He spoke to the intruder, who said: "Pretty cold weather, isn't it? Seeing that the stranger was mentally unbalanced, he took to an officer, and it was learned that he had but recently escaped from the asylum at Farmington."

Cape Republic.—John Kemp, a poor old man who, with his wife and invalid boy, were taken into the city by some one from Scott county and dumped here without means, and when the President association came for the severe weather, last Saturday evening, in a room of the old Wilson building on North Main street that had been secured for them by the President association.

Officer Macke of Cape Girardeau who killed a tramp there two weeks ago, was held in the sum of \$500. It developed that the dead man was well related and has a brother in Pennsylvania who is a priest. You can't tell who is "down and out" the days Ex-bankers and business men are common in the bread-lines of the cities.

Charleston Enterprise.—It seems that Charleston is having more than her share of tramps. Some of our citizens tell us they never had as many tramps visit their back door as are making their appearance now.

Mrs. Chris Sperling of near Burdetteville, aged 70 years, committed suicide by jumping into Little Whitewater.

this question, you can't see it that way. You have been taught that the landlord "develops the country" and is a great public benefactor. The Socialist says he is a parasite and worse than a parasite. He plays no useful part in the scheme of development or production.

Nor do you understand that he is the tenant of the state. But he is. If he denies this, ask him to refuse to pay his rent, and the state next fall and see how quick the state will let the land out to others who will pay the rent just as he does. However, what the landlord pays to the state is not called rent—but TAXES—and when he fails to pay, the state takes back its land. I call attention to this to point out that the prior and real title to the land is now in the state—the people. If the people want your land for any public use they take it. Hence the only thing necessary to make it possible for every worker to obtain a home is to change the landlord-made laws that they borrowed from England. And the workers can now accomplish this by voting the same ticket as the landlord.

INSTRUCTIONS IN HONESTY

From the Salt Lake Herald. A few years ago there was a shiftless colored boy named Ransom Blake, who, after being caught in a number of petty delinquencies, was at last sentenced to a short term in the penitentiary, where he was sent to learn a trade. On the day of his return home he met a friend who asked, "Well, what did they put you at in the prison, Ransom?" "I started in to make an honest boy out of me, sah."

"That's good, Ransom, and I hope they succeeded."

"They did, sah."

"And how did they teach you to be honest?"

"They dun put me in a shoeshop, sah, nallin' pasteboard outer shoes for leather soles, sah."

PYROTECHNIC.

"Now they claim that the human body contains sulfur."

"In what amount?"

"Oh, in varying quantities."

"Well, that may account for some girls making better matches than others.—Pittsburg Post